

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1. (Currently amended) Safety device for laboratory work[[,]] in ~~particular for liquid chromatography systems, with~~ comprising a level measuring arrangement (7); which is connected to a tank (8) and, upon detection of a certain liquid level in the tank (8), generates an alarm signal, ~~characterized in that~~ the level measuring arrangement (7) is also connected via at least one drainage line to at least one laboratory working surface (3, 4) and ~~also produces the~~ generates an alarm signal when it detects leaking liquid on ~~the~~ at least one laboratory working surface (3, 4).

2. (Currently amended) Safety device as claimed in Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the level measuring arrangement (7) ~~exhibits~~ has an interior (13); into which liquid from a certain liquid level in the tank (8) and/or liquid leaking on the at least one laboratory working surface (3, 4) flows, and for which a level limit switch (14), ~~preferably a vibration limit switch,~~ is provided.

3. (Currently amended) Safety device as claimed in Claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the level measuring arrangement (7) projects down

into the tank (8) from above and ~~preferably exhibits~~ has a transcurrent hole (18) connecting the interior (17) of the tank (8) to ~~the~~ an interior (13) of the level measuring arrangement (7) in a side wall (16) of its interior (13).

4. (Currently amended) Safety device as claimed in Claim 2 or 3, **~~characterized in that~~** wherein the level measuring arrangement (7) has a bowl-like element (19) ~~exhibiting~~ having the interior (13), which is ~~preferably screwed connected~~ via its upper side (20) to the lower end of a longitudinal hole (22) of a main part (21) of the level measuring arrangement (7) arranged above the bowl-like element (19).

5. (Currently amended) Safety device as claimed in Claim 4, **~~characterized in that~~** wherein the main part (21) of the level measuring arrangement (7) ~~exhibits~~ has a supplementary hole (23) discharging into the longitudinal hole (22), through which the liquid leaking onto the at least one laboratory working surface (3; 4) flows into the interior (13) of the level measuring arrangement (7).

6. (Currently amended) Safety device as claimed in ~~one or other of the foregoing Claims,~~ **~~characterized in that~~** Claim 1, wherein the level measuring

arrangement (7) is also a drum adapter (24) which is capable of being connected to the liquid container.

7. (Currently amended) Safety device as claimed in ~~one or other of the foregoing Claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the level measuring arrangement (7) is connected to a monitoring device (31) ~~preferably exhibiting having a plurality of safety circuits and executed in the form of a Liquid Control Interface, known as LCI, which preferably~~ which communicates with analysis and/or control software, ~~for example chromatography software,~~ forms the central power supply unit for an analysis system, ~~for example a preparative HPLC system,~~ and switches off the analysis system, ~~preferably with a time delay,~~ in the event of an alarm signal from one of the safety circuits.

8. (Currently amended) Safety device as claimed in Claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein liquid-carrying components~~[[,]]~~ ~~preferably pumps,~~ are capable of being supplied with electrical energy via the central power supply unit.

9. (Currently amended) Safety device as claimed in Claims 7 or 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the monitoring device (31) is designed in such a way that the maximum and/or the minimum liquid level in the tank (8) is detectable.

10. (Currently amended) Safety device as claimed in Claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein further measurement sensors (41), ~~preferably in the form of level meters~~ for triggering an alarm in the event of a maximum and/or minimum liquid level in ~~[[a]]~~ the tank (8) in each case are connected to the monitoring device (31).

11. (Currently amended) Safety device as claimed in one or other of Claims 7 ~~to 10~~, ~~characterized in that~~ or 8, wherein the monitoring device (31) ~~exhibits~~ comprises a timer relay (39), which, in the event of an alarm, generates a signal after a preset time delay and in so doing causes a power relay (40) to open, which then interrupts the power supply to a mains outlet (43) ~~preferably in the form of an outlet socket~~.

12. (Currently amended) Safety device as claimed in ~~one or other of Claims 7 to 11~~, ~~characterized in that~~ claim 11, wherein the monitoring device (31) ~~contains~~ comprises a second timer relay (38), which at preset time intervals requests a signal in the form of an impulse, ~~for example,~~ from control software and, in the absence of the impulse signal, itself generates a signal and in this way causes ~~[[a]]~~ the power relay (40) to open, which then interrupts the power supply to ~~[[a]]~~ the mains outlet (43) ~~preferably in the form of an outlet socket~~.

13. (Currently amended) Safety device as claimed in Claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ comprising means for switching the function of the second timer relay (38) ~~is capable of being switched on and off.~~

14. (New) Safety device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the laboratory work is used for liquid chromatography systems.

15. (New) Safety device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the limit switch comprises a vibration limit switch.

16. (New) Safety device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the analysis and/or control software comprises chromatography software.

17. (New) Safety device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the analysis system comprises a preparative HPLC system.

18. (New) Safety device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the analysis system is switched off with a time delay.

19. (New) Safety device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the liquid-carrying components comprises pumps.

20. (New) Safety device as claimed in claim 11 or 12, wherein the measuring sensors comprise level meters.

21. (New) Safety device as claimed in claim 11 or 12, wherein the mains outlet comprises an outer socket.